

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /094 W

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R 100231Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2702

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1321

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY

SUBJ: GOM VIEWS ON ASEAN SUMMIT

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN TO
DISCUSS ASEAN SUMMIT AND MALAYSIAN VIEWS ON FUTURE OF THIS
REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MAJOR
POINTS IN OUR 60 MINUTE CONVERSATION.

2. GENERAL IMPRESSIONS: RITHAUDDEEN WAS PLEASED AND
SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME OF BALI SUMMIT. THE FIRST MEETING
OF FIVE HEADS OF STATE WAS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE, MARKING
IN HIS VIEW, END OF PREPARATORY PHASE OF ASEAN AND
BEGINNING NEW PHASE OF MORE CONCRETE AND PRACTICAL EXPRESSION
OF GROWING SENSE OF REGIONAL SOLIDARITY. INDULGING IN
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MILD PUN, RITHAUDDEEN SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE WANTED ASEAN

CONCORD TO MOVE AT SPEED OF CONCORDE. THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE, HE WENT ON, BUT MANY OF ASEAN'S CRITICS HAVE FAULTED IT FOR NOT DOING WHAT IT HAD NEVER SET OUT TO DO.

3. ECONOMIC COOPERATION: MEETING OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS NOW GOING ON IN KUALA LUMPUR WOULD TRY TO IDENTIFY MAJOR INDUSTRIES WHICH ALLOCATED AMONG ASEAN PARTNERS WOULD PROVIDE ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN REGIONAL MARKETING ZONE. RITHAUDDEEN SAID ALL WERE AWARE THAT REGIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING OF THIS SORT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE FLOW OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND OPEN UP NEW AREAS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND THE EEC.

4. HANOI CRITICISM: THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NOT DISTURBED BY HANOI'S CRITICISM OF ASEAN. IT WAS A REPETITION OF WELL KNOWN NORTH VIETNAMESE VIEWS AND IN HIS JUDGMENT WAS DIRECTED MORE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES THAN AGAINST ASEAN.

5. U.S. ROLE: I ASKED RITHAUDDEEN WHAT HE ENVISAGED AS U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO ASEAN. WHAT SPECIFICALLY WOULD HE LIKE THE UNITED STATES TO DO? HE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE THOUGHT WE HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING BY NOT SENDING FORMAL GREETINGS TO ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING. ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE WELL AWARE OF OUR SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT, AND FORMAL STATEMENT AT THAT POINT WAS NOT NECESSARY. IN RITHAUDDEEN'S VIEW, MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT UNITED STATES COULD MAKE AT THIS STAGE IS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. ALL OF THE COUNTRIES OF ASEAN HAVE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE US. AND THEIR CAPACITIES TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR POPULATIONS AND DEVELOP NATIONAL RESILIENCE DEPENDED ON HEALTHY, EXPANDING ECONOMIES. WHILE THE DAYS OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WERE OVER, SYMPATHETIC AMERICAN ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE AREA COULD HAVE A MAJOR, IF INDIRECT, IMPACT ON ASEAN SECURITY THROUGH PROGRESS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS.

WITH REGARD TO THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY, ONCE ASEAN HAS DEFINED MORE CLEARLY THIS CONCEPT, IT WILL SEEK ACCEPTANCE FIRST FROM OTHER NATIONS IN THE REGION. WHEN THIS HAS BEEN RECEIVED, IT WILL THEN TURN TO THE MAJOR POWERS AND AT THAT POINT SEEK A FORMAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
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FROM THE UNITED STATES.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUALA01321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-0219
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760376/aaaacpei.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM VIEWS ON ASEAN SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, MY, ASEAN, (RITHAUDDEEN BIN ISMAIL, AHMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006